

THE GREENFIELD GOSSIP

Newsletter by the pupils of Greenfield Primary School, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire

Issue 25: Autumn 2019

This is the first of four editions of the Greenfield Gossip this year ... one for each season! The autumn term is flying by and as usual, things do not stand still at Greenfield Primary School. Many parents commented on some of our new displays around the school during parents evening week just before half term. We have displays up celebrating black history, the moon landings fifty years ago, sport and music at Greenfield as well as all aspects of our exciting and ever changing curriculum. As parents, you are always more than welcome to come and look at our displays after school, especially if your child has some work up that they feel proud of.

Indeed, there are some obvious changes going on at Greenfield that we can all see ... the sensory garden at the front of the school is nearly complete and will be a lovely place for our children to walk in, rest, think, reflect and simply be. The climbing equipment in Y6 is now finally complete and will be enjoyed by many children for many years to come. But there are also changes going on at school which are not always obviously visible to parents and children. Our teacher days are extremely important as they offer us, as teachers, an opportunity to reflect on our curriculum and to develop and improve what we teach and how we teach it. We spent our October day recently focusing on learning and teaching in history – the content of our history curriculum was already good but we want the children to be more confident with chronology, to be more able to make links with events from the past in terms of key historical concepts such as monarchy, nation, conflict and power. We want our children to not only have great knowledge about the past ... but to have the ability to reason, articulate and explain how the past has influenced the present day.

These subtle changes in the way we teach will hopefully engage the children in thought and ultimately lead to deeper understanding and we are working hard to review planning, learning and teaching in all subjects over the next two years – exciting times and sometimes only visible to those outside the school gates, in terms of how excited our children are about what they are learning.

Mr N Quinn
Head of School



“Lend your platform to others and share your success”



Megan Rapinoe

Megan Rapinoe is a very inspiring woman. She was born in July, 1985 and grew up in California, USA. She first began playing football in teams coached by her father, quickly progressing to Olympic Lyonnais; a successful French team who consecutively won the French League Championship six times! Rapinoe scored six times during the Women's World Cup this summer, including the opener in the final, and has made an amazing effort to stay at the top of her game when there are a lot of very talented younger players competing for her place. She shows enormous

determination, commitment and an exceptional work ethic; all qualities that have helped her to become the world's best female footballer...

Megan Rapinoe was recently awarded 'Best Female FIFA Player 2019', at the FIFA TV award show in Italy. Following the presentation, she gave a highly inspiring speech. After thanking her friends and family, she used her acceptance speech to speak about issues that she feels passionate about: Stories that have inspired her most include those of Raheem Sterling and Kalidou Koulibaly who have had to endure appalling racism in football. Their courage in handling themselves throughout their ordeals has made Rapinoe more determined to fight racism in football. *"I feel like if we really want to have meaningful change, what I think is most inspiring would be if everybody other than Sterling and Koulibaly were as outraged about racism as they were."*

Rapinoe used her platform at the awards ceremony to invite **everyone** to take a stand against inequality of all kinds even if they are not directly affected by the nasty actions and comments. Just because something is not directed at you personally, does not mean that you shouldn't challenge it. She acknowledged that as professional footballers, they are influential people with many fans who look up to them. Rapinoe invited every footballer to join her fight and lend their platform to others and to share their success. *"We have a unique opportunity to use this game to actually change the world for better. I hope you take that to heart and do something. We have incredible power in this room."*

Rapinoe's performance has been outstanding; not just on the football pitch, but at podiums and in front of crowds. She is a great role model to people all over the world both as a footballer and as a spokesperson against racism, homophobia and gender inequality: She has previously accused FIFA, football's governing body, of not showing women's football enough respect when the game was played on the same date as the men's Copa America and Gold Cup finals. She has also called for the United States women's team to be paid the same as their male counterparts. A speech such as this is very powerful coming from such a big name in football and has inspired us to tell her story.

Here at Greenfield, we are proud of all of our football teams. The girls' team is coached by Mr Quinn and the boys' teams by Miss Houtt and Mr Collier. We aspire to equality and fairness and celebrate both teams' successes equally. Our message to you is to stand up for what is right and to challenge inequality if you see it.

Article by Alex, Caleb, Cameron, Joe,, Mia & Sophia



Y6 Play Equipment

New opportunities
New challenges



New outlook
New perceptions

Nearly Finished!

★ Star of the Month
September 2019 ★

★ Y3 Jovana S

★ Y4 Henry S

★ Y5 Oscar W

★ Y6 The Whole Year Group!

Keeping in touch with life at Greenfield Primary School



www.greenfieldprimary.net



@GreenfieldPrimarySchool



@GreenfieldPS

Mr Megginson spills the beans...

Q: What job did you do before you became an ICT technician at Greenfield?

Mr Meg: I originally started as a maths and geography teacher – I spent 16 years teaching at South Wigston High School and I also taught in Market Harborough and Coalville. I've always enjoyed working with computers so I went back to university to study ICT – and then found myself working back in a school!!!

Q2: What is the most common problem that you are asked to fix for teachers and pupils at Greenfield?

Mr Meg: I'm afraid it has always been the same thing ... which is that things are not connected properly! But there is just so much to fix now as there is so much technology available to teachers and children – not like when I started teaching when the only thing to fix was my rolling blackboard!

Q3: What is your personal favourite bit of technology?

Mr Meg: How can you pick between a mobile phone ... a smart T.V. ... a touch screen or a sat nav! I do love all of it but I think I would choose the sat nav – I travel away to sporting grounds that I don't know a lot and sat nav just makes unfamiliar travel so easy – it's brilliant!

Q4: How fast does your job change as technology advances?

Mr Meg: Technology makes life simple but also complex at the same time. Technology is forever changing, so it is hard for schools to keep up with change and expectations. It would be great though, if every class could have their own set of i-Pads ...

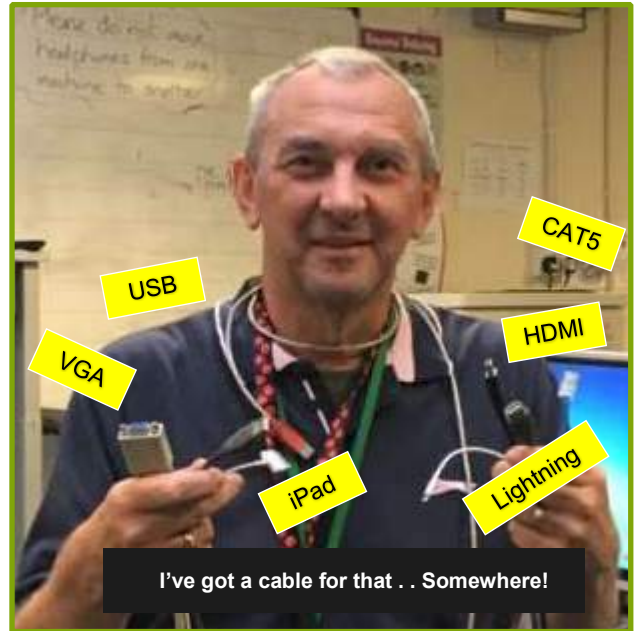
Q5: What are your interests outside of school ... and away from computers?

Mr Meg: Well, I've had a motorbike since I was seventeen - I love the smell of oil and petrol! I've toured all over Europe on my bike and I still like to go out on country roads (steering clear of city centres!) I have always enjoyed sport and I play hockey every week. If I watch sport, I enjoy watching any motorbike racing as well as cricket and NFL (American Football!)

Q6: You also oversee our library for us. What is your personal favourite book and why?

Mr Meg: Only one book ... that's hard! I really love books – my favourite author has to be Terry Pratchett who wrote the Discworld novels. My favourite children's book is called 'It was Jake' ... where the dog called Jake gets the blame for everything. I read that story over and over to my two boys when they were little.

Interview by Alex and Erin



What's Happening?

Thur 14th November
New parents 2–3 p.m.



Fri 15th November
CHILDREN IN NEED



Weds 20th November
Y1 Gruffalo Curve Theatre Trip

Fri 22nd November
Sponsored Walk 'When you wish upon a star'

Thurs 28th November
Y6 Black Country Museum Trip

Tues 3rd December
FS/KS1 Christmas Crafts Morning

Thurs 5th December
Y1 Hibernation Day!
XMAS FAYRE 6-8pm



Fri 13th December
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY
School Christmas Dinner!

Monday 16th December
KS2 Aladdin Theatre Trip

Tues 17th December
Y3-Y5 to St Andrews Church



Thurs 19th December
KS2 Talent Show
END OF TERM



Spring Term Starts
Tues 7th January

Taiko Drumming

Taiko is the name for a broad range of Japanese percussion instruments. It has been part of the Japanese culture for centuries, showcasing a combination of drumming and martial art. One of the first uses of Taiko was as a battlefield instrument; used to intimidate and scare the enemy – a similar use of drums can be found in many cultures throughout history.

At Greenfield we play the Pipe Drums, Shimmy and Nagado which are enormous drums played with wooden sticks called bacchi. During our Taiko lessons, we learn to speak Japanese words and to perform a range of Kata (movements), which are part of the discipline.

In this photo, some lucky pupils are playing the Taiko drum whilst wearing yellow for World Mental Health Day. Taiko is really good for mental health because it involves team-work, improves self-esteem, and helps to build respect between people. We have to use a lot of eye contact, listen to each other and value everyone in the group. It is also great fun and calming; everyone who has done it loves it!

In June and July this year, Greenfield Taiko players performed at DeMontfort Hall and at the Sue Townsend Theatre as part of the



Did you see any Taiko on TV at the Rugby World Cup?

International Taiko Festival. This was the first time the festival had been held outside of Japan and we got to watch some serious grand masters at work!

Article by Erin & Grace

★	Star of the Month	★
★	October 2019	★
★	Y1 Sienna S	★
★	Y2 Poppy O	★
★	Y3 Freddie K	★
★	Y4 Evie H	★
★	Y5 Harry M	★
★	Y6 Alex T	★

